



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Dennis R.
Ulbrich and Derrick A. Pizarro

ATTORNEY DKT. NO. 22578.3

SERIAL NO. 09/902,440

GROUP ART UNIT: 3677

FILED: July 10, 2001

EXAMINING ATTORNEY: Carlos Lugo

TITLE: Locking System For Gooseneck
Trailer Hitch

BOX RESPONSES—NO FEE
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Examiner Lugo;

This correspondence is being filed in response to an Office Action mailed July 25, 2002.

Applicant herewith responds within three (3) months of the mailing date of the Office Action.

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

Examiner has rejected claims 8-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Prior Art" in view of either U.S. Patent No. 4,699,395 to Hale ("Hale") or U.S. Patent No. 5,513,871 to Johnson ("Johnson").

It is apparent that Johnson and Hale involve two entirely different gooseneck trailer hitch designs. The gooseneck trailer hitch of Hale comprises a rotating sleeve and locking cams that engage the hitch ball. The gooseneck trailer hitch referenced in Johnson, on the other hand, utilizes plates having apertures that, when "scissored" to misalign the apertures, trap the hitch ball within the hitch assembly. The present invention is not intended for use with the gooseneck